Profit (+)/loss(–) (Figs. in Rs. crores) (after CPRA)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CIL	400.32	29.73	611.44
SCCL	16.26	24.99	–190.80

Net profit earned by NCL during last three years is as under :-

1994-95 = Rs. 176.16 crores
1995-96 = Rs. 272.58 crores
1996-97 (Prov) = Rs. 294.56 crores

[English]

Coffee Plantation in Non-Traditional

6627. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee plantation has started in Orissa, North-Eastern region and non-traditional States on experimental basis;

(b) if so, to what extent success has been achieved separately;

(c) the details of future programmes drawn up in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Coffee cultivation in non-traditional states has been taken up since 1976 when a target of 72,000 ha. of Coffee plantation was envisaged in all the non-traditional states. Since then, a total of 20,830 ha. has been brought under coffee cultivation in these states. Coffee Board has continued coffee cultivation in the non-traditional states through its various research and extension programmes. The following are the State-wise details of area under plantation in non-traditional States.

Sl. No.	State	Planted Area (In ha.)	Bearing Area (In ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	1709.00	721.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	585.90	579.00
3.	Manipur	760.00	400.00
4.	Meghalaya	900.00	900.00
5.	Mizoram	2780.00	1252.00
6.	Nagaland	2650.00	850.00
7.	Tripura	726.40	506.50
8.	Andhra Pradesh	9311.54	8339.82
9.	Orissa	1407.00	356.60

(c) and (d) Coffee Board has proposed a comprehensive programme to support consolidation and expansion of coffee area in North-Eastern region and other non-trational areas which includes providing 50% subsidy for inputs and planting materials and assistance for marketing support during the Ninth Plan which is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Coal Sector

6628. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers unions engaged in Coal Industry are vehemently opposing the Governments decision regarding privatisation of this industry;

(b) whether coal workers and other workers unions have sent representations to Union Government in this regard and they are resorting to dharnas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) The public sector trade unions affiliated to Centre of Indian Trade Union, All India Trade Union Congress and Hind Mazdoor Sabha had given a notice for a token one-day strike on 2.4.1997 on a charter of demands which included stoppage of privatisation of coal mines. On receipt of the strike notice, the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) was approached to intervene. However, the proposed strike was subsequently called off by the trade unions.

Representations from some trade unions opposing privatisation of coal industry were received. Two demonstrations on 3.3.1997 and 31.3.1997 were also staged at Calcutta on the same issue by the supporters of a few coal employees' unions.

No decision regarding privatisation of the working coal mines of Coal India Limited has been taken by the Government.

[English]

Foreign Trade With Russia

6629. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether volume of foreign trade between India and Russia is steadily on the decline;

(b) if so, whether this matter came up for discussion in the recent summit talks between the Hon'ble Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on his recent Moscow visit;

(c) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in order to correct the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Russian trade increased in rupee terms by 44.6% and 54.3% during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively over the previous years. However, there has been a decline of 22.6% in rupee terms in the Indo-Russian trade during the period April-February 1996-97 over the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Indo-Russian trade also came up for discussion during the talks between Prime Minister of India and the Russian President in March, 1997 in Moscow. During the meeting, it was acknowledged that the current volume of Indo-Russian trade turnover was not large, and steps are needed to be taken to increase it.

(d) Various steps have been initiated by the Government to arrest the decline and enhance the Indo-Russian trade. These steps include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibiions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hitech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

Transaction made by STC & MMTC

6630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trade undertaken by STC and MMTC during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the profit/loss earned by STC and MMTC during the above years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Details of turnover achieved by STC & MMTC alongwith the profit earned during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :-

(Value in Rs. Crore)

	Year	Turnover	Net profit
STC	1995-96	1685	22
	1996-97*	2317	44*
MMTC	1995-96	6224	52
	1996-97*	4678	55*

*(Provisional)

Captive Coal Blocks

6631. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from the independent power products who had been allotted captive coal blocks are now willing to give up the captive mines and go for cheaper coal supply from public sector coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of 47 blocks identified for captive operations, 24 blocks have been offered to the private sector and in only three or four blocks mining activities have been initiated; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to come out with some concrete fiscal incentives for private participation in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) M/s. Development Consultants Ltd., a private company who had been offered Chuperbita block in Rajmahal area of Eastern Coalfields Limited for captive consumption for power generation have declined the offer and submitted